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PATENT 2002

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REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 168, 262, and 265 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wellner U.S. Patent No. 5,640,193 (hereinafter referred to as "Wellner"). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claim 169 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wellner in view of Hidary et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,774,664 (hereinafter referred to as "Hidary"). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 170-261, 263-264, 266, and 267 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wellner in view of Hidary and in view of the general teachings of the prior art of record.

In response to the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has amended the specification to properly cross reference and to claim the benefit of the May 25, 1994 filing date of the related applications. An effective filing date of May 25, 1994 predates the August 15, 1994 filing date of Wellner and the March 8, 1996 filing date of the earliest application cross referenced by Hidary, therefore, Wellner and Hidary are not proper references against this application. In light of the foregoing amendment, Applicant submits that claims 168-267 are in condition for allowance.



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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention represents a patentable contribution to the art and the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is accordingly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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